

second chance to build your democracy and bring life to the dreams of your liberators.

I have been told that throughout your land, our soldiers, our diplomats, and our volunteers have been greeted by hand-painted signs with three simple words. These words go right to their hearts and to mine. They are: Thank you, America. Now it is my turn to say, *Merçi a Haiti*. Thank you for the warmth of your welcome and your support for all who have joined hands with you. Thank you for embracing peace, for denying despair, for holding on to hope.

Because of your courage, because of your determination, freedom can triumph over fear.

Today we stand in the warm, bright light of liberty, and together we can say, *Kenbe fem, pa lage. Kenbe fem, pa lage*.

Merçi, and thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:16 a.m. at the National Palace. In his remarks, he referred to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti and United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti in Port-au-Prince March 31, 1995

Assassination of Mireille Durocher Bertin

Q. President Aristide, was your Interior Minister involved in the Tuesday assassination?

President Aristide. No.

Q. Have these allegations cast a damper over the President's visit?

President Aristide. No.

Q. Have you asked the FBI to look into the possibility that he might have been involved in the Bertin death?

President Aristide. We welcome help from the international community, from the United States in helping us finding proof of this violence for months—for days. And together we'll be working.

Q. Mr. President, are you satisfied the Interior Minister was not involved?

President Clinton. President Aristide asked the FBI to help investigate this. They are doing an investigation. I think we should applaud this quick and decisive action and let the investigation proceed and not presume its results.

This is a day of celebration, and nothing can cast a cloud on it. It's a day of mission accomplished for the United States, a day of celebration for Haiti and for the United Nations force, and a day for looking ahead for the work still to be done.

President's Visit

Q. How did you like your reception, Mr. President?

President Clinton. I liked it a lot. It was very nice. It was great.

Q. Must be a little bit tired—all the hand-shaking.

President Clinton. It was quite wonderful.

Q. [Inaudible]—was your idea?

President Clinton. No, but I liked it, though.

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:05 p.m. at the National Palace. A reporter referred to Interior Minister Gen. Mondesir Beaubrun of Haiti. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at the United Nations Transition Ceremony in Port-au-Prince March 31, 1995

Mr. Secretary-General, President Aristide, members of the multinational force in Haiti,

members of the United Nations mission in Haiti: We gather to celebrate the triumph of freedom